

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN JO 04248 070115Z

17

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-04 OMB-01 SAM-01

SCA-01 JUSE-00 SY-04 TRSE-00 /057 W

----- 014247

O 070005Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8526

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 4248

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, CS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT ODUBER COMMENTS PUBLICLY ON VESCO MATTER

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: "LA NACION" PUBLISHED THE FOURTH OF A MULTIPART INTERVIEW SERIES WITH PRESIDENT DANIEL ODUBER ON NOVEMBER 6 WHERE THE PRESIDENT PRESENTED AT SOME LENGTH HIS VIEWS ON ROBERT VESCO'S PRESENCE IN COSTA RICA AND THE USG POSTURE WITH REGARD TO HIS PRESENCE. MUCH OF HIS COMMENT REPORTEDLY DEALT WITH THE USG 1973 EXTRADITION ATTEMPT. FOLLOWING ARE RELEVANT QUOTES FROM "LA NACION:"

2. "I HAVE BEEN AWARE THAT VESCO HAD IMPORTANT ENEMIES ABROAD AND THAT WHEN HE TIED IN WITH DON PEPE HERE, IN BUSINESS OR IN AN INTIMATE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP, THIS PLACED VESCO AT ODDS WITH ALL OF DON PEPE'S ENEMIES IN COSTA RICA. HE WAS A CONTROVERSIAL FOREIGNER IN THE COUNTRY AND THIS HAD TO BE EXPECTED."

3. "I HAVE HAD (INFORMATION) ABOUT VESCO FROM U.S. OFFICIALS IN THE SEC, THE WHITE HOUSE, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. I KNEW THAT VESCO WAS A MAN THAT INTERESTED THEM, FROM THE POLITICAL STANDPOINT, IN  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAN JO 04248 070115Z

THE UNITED STATES. I ALSO WAS AWARE, AS A DEPUTY

(EMBASSY NOTE: ODUBER WAS PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BEFORE BECOMING A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE), AND LATER, FROM AFAR, IN THE POLITICAL CAMPAIGN, THAT EVERYTHING RELATED TO THESUAMOUS 1973 EXTRADITION (ODUBER PARENTHETICALL6: "OR THE ATTEMPTED EXTRADITION") HAD BEEN MANIPULATED IN SUCH A WAY THAT IT APPEARQAEED AS A DESIRE TO FULFILL A REQUIREMENT, BUT WAS NOT A SERIOUS DESIRE TO BRING THE MAN, THROUGH THE JUDICIAL PROCESS TO THE U.S. COURTS. IN TWO WORDS, THEY WANTED TO HAVE PUBLIC OPINION BELIEVE THAT THEY WANTED HIM, BUT IN REALITY THEY DID NOT WANT HIM. THIS WAS THE SITUATION. THIS WAS A MOCKERY ("DE RIDICULO") OF COSTA RICA AND I CONSIDER IT OFFENSIVE TO NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS."

4. "BEYOND ALL THE EMOTIONS, IN FAVOR AND AGAINST THIS GENTLEMAN, I HAVE THE OBLIGATION TO BEHAVE AS PRESIDENT OF COSTA RICANS AND TO REPRESENT THIS REPUBLIC WITH DIGNITY TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS."

5. IN THE CRIMINAL AREA, VESCO WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF EXTRADITION WHEN, IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR TREATIES AND OUR LAWS, THE SUPREME COURT DETERMINES IT. IN OTHER WORDS, IN THE CRIMINAL AREA, AS PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, I WILL DO AS THE COURT INDICATES. WE HAVE IN COSTA RICA AN EXCELLENT COURT SYSTEM AND THOSE WHO WANT TO CAN COME AND PLACE ANY CHARGES THEY WISH (IN THE CIVIL FIELD) IN ORDER TO RECOVER THE WEALTH THAT, ACCORDING TO THEM, VESCO TOOK FROM A LARGE NUMBER OF SHAREHOLDERS. I AM SURE THAT ANY SHAREHOLDER, ESPECIALLY WHEN SUPPORTED BY U.S. INSTITUTIONS, IF HE DESIRES CAN INITIATE A CASE AND DISCUSS IN THE COSTA RICAN COURTS ANYTHING THAT IS BEING DEBATED REGARDING THE PROPERTY AND FORTUNE OF MR. VESCO."

5. "FROM THE (NATIONAL) POINT OF VIEW I AM PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THIS MATTER. FIRST, THAT THIS MONEY (VESCO'S) BEING DISCUSSED AROUND THE WORLD AND APPARENTLY WITHOUT A LEGALLY SECURE OWNER SHOULD COME TO COSTA RICA AND BE INVESTED HERE.  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAN JO 04248 070115Z

HOPEFULLY, IN TANGIBLE THINGS. AND THAT IT BE HERE THAT THE PROPRIETY OF THIS MONEY SHOULD BE DISCUSSED BECAUSE, IN THE LONG RUN, AS HAS HAPPENED IN OTHER HISTORICAL CASES, MUCH OF THIS WEALTH WOULD REMAIN IN THE COUNTRY, IN (THE FORM OF) FEES, COURT COSTS, TAXES, AND A SERIES OF OTHER THINGS. WHEN I WROTE THE LETTER OF MAY 7, I INSISTED TO MR. VESCO THAT I WANTED HIS INVESTMENTS FROM HIS FORTUNE OR FROM THE

WEALTH HE BROUGHT FROM ABROAD TO BE KNOWN BY ME PERSONALLY OR BY MY OFFICIALS. (AND THAT THE INVESTMENTS BE MADE) IN LAND, IN BUILDINGS, IN SHARES OF SOUND BUSINESSES AND THAT ALL BE MAINTAINED IN ORDER SO THAT, IF NECESSARY, SOME DAY ALL OF THIS COULD BE AIRED IN THE COURTS."

6. IN CONCLUSION, ODUBER REPORTEDLY SAID, "WHAT HAS BEEN SPECULATED ABOUT MR. VESCO IS, IN GREAT PART, STIMULATED BY U.S. POLITICAL INTERESTS AND BY COSTA RICAN POLITICAL INTERESTS. I HAVE CAREFULLY FOLLOWED ALL THIS CONTROVERSY AND THERE ARE TWO THINGS THAT I CANNOT ACCEPT. ONE, THAT A LAUGHING STOCK BE MADE OF THE COSTA RICAN COURTS BECAUSE OF INTERNAL U.S. POLITICS. THIS SEEMS TO ME OFFENSIVE TO THE COURTS AND OFFENSIVE TO THE COUNTRY. TWO, THAT COSTA RICAN LAWS BE EVADED OR RIDICULED REGARDING EXTRADITION AND REGARDING THE RIGHT OF ASYLUM THAT I MENTIONED. (ODUBER DISCUSSED IN A PARAGRAPH NOT INCLUDED IN THIS CABLE THE TRADITIONAL COSTA RICAN WELCOME TO ASYLEES.)  
LANE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EXTRADITION, PRESS COMMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 NOV 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974SANJO04248  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740319-0611  
**From:** SAN JOSE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19741163/aaaacbay.tel  
**Line Count:** 136  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 11 SEP 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <11 SEP 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <25 MAR 2003 by GarlanWA>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESIDENT ODUBER COMMENTS PUBLICLY ON VESCO MATTER  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PGOV, CS, (VESCO, ROBERT), (ODUBER, DANIEL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005